

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A packaged diaper comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within ~~the said interior space~~ of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said compressed~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
- (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement~~said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement maintains at least a partial vacuum state in said interior space, and wherein said encasement is sealed after evacuation of air and creation of the at least partial vacuum state within said interior space of said encasement.~~

43. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim 42, wherein a pressure within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement is on the order of

~~magnitude of a millibars (mbar) within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement constitutes the at least partial vacuum state in said interior space of said encasement.~~

44. (currently amended) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a ~~compressible~~compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within ~~the said interior space~~ of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a pressure on the order of magnitude of a millibar (mbar)~~said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement maintains at least a partial vacuum state in said interior space, and wherein said encasement is sealed after evacuation of air and creation of the at least partial vacuum state within said interior space of said encasement; and~~
 - ~~(h) wherein a pressure within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement is on the order of millibars (mbar).~~

45-46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a ~~The packaged diaper of claim 44, wherein said pressure is between about 5 millibarsmbar and about 1 millibarmbar.~~

48-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A packaged diaper, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a ~~compressible~~-compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;

- (e) wherein, when disposed within ~~the~~said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within ~~the~~said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement~~a pressure differential across said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement acts upon said encasement to maintain the diaper in its reduced volume state~~; and
 - (h) wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least a lengthwise fold in said diaper.
51. (currently amended) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
 - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within ~~the~~said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging; ~~and~~
 - (f) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within ~~the~~said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and

- (g) wherein the vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.
52. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein said vacuum-packed diaper further comprises a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said compressible absorbent diapers therefrom.
53. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein the vacuum-packed diaper has a size no larger than a conventional cigarette package.
54. (canceled)
55. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement is formed of a flexible material.
56. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein said compressible absorbent diaper disposed within ~~the said interior space~~ of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement comprises a substantially cylindrical shape.
57. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 56, wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is rolled defining said substantially cylindrical shape.
58. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein said compressible absorbent diaper disposed within ~~the said interior space~~ of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement comprises a substantially rectangular shape defining a length, a width, and a thickness.
59. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 58, wherein said thickness is less than each of said length and said width, and wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is vacuum-packed within said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement reducing said thickness.
60. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 58, wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is folded at least once along a dimension defining said length.
61. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 58, wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is folded at least twice along a dimension defining said length.
62. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length and width

- each of which is less than about 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper.
63. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about 1/3 of the nominal length of said diaper.
64. (currently amended) The packaged diaper of claim ~~51~~42, wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length which is less than about 1/4 of the nominal length of said diaper.
- 65-66. (canceled)
67. (currently amended) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a ~~compressible-compressed~~ absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within ~~the said interior space~~ of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized; and
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a pressure on the order of magnitude of a millibar (mbar)~~said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement maintains at least a partial vacuum state in said interior space, and wherein said encasement is sealed after evacuation of~~

~~air and creation of the at least partial vacuum state within said interior space of said encasement; and~~

~~(h) wherein a pressure within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement is on the order of millibars (mbar).~~

68-69. (canceled)

70. (currently amended) A packaged diaper comprising:

(a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and

(b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;

(c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;

(d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;

(e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;

(f) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized;

(g) wherein said encasement is sealed after evacuation of air from said interior space of said encasement; and

(h) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement, said interior space having a ~~The packaged diaper of claim 67, wherein said pressure is between about 5 mbar-millibars and about 1 mbar-millibar.~~

71-72. (canceled)

73. (currently amended) A packaged diaper, comprising:

(a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and

- (b) a ~~compressible~~compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within ~~the said interior space~~ of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed ~~compressible~~-absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said ~~compressible~~ absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement~~a pressure differential across said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement acts upon said encasement to maintain the diaper in its reduced volume state;~~
 - (g) wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least a lengthwise fold in said diaper; and
 - (h) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized.
74. (currently amended) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
 - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within ~~the said interior space~~ of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced

volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging; and

- (f) ~~wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized~~the packaged, vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.

75. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 74, wherein said encasement is substantially impermeable to moisture.
76. (new) The packaged diaper of claim 74, wherein printed graphics on said diaper are viewable through said encasement.
77. (new) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (e) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement.
78. (new) A packaged diaper comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in

- said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
- (e) wherein said diaper ins said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm.